

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A button apparatus used in a communication network environment employing a plurality of transceivers each transmitting and receiving information by inducing an electric field in a human body serving as an electric-field propagating medium ~~according to information to be transmitted~~ and by detecting the electric field induced in the human body, the button apparatus being pressed down by a user, who wears a first transceiver among the plurality of transceivers and a first computer that is connected to the first transceiver and keeps monetary information, for the user to obtain a commodity or a service from a commodity/service providing apparatus, the button apparatus comprising:

a conductive pusher configured to be touched and pressed down with the a body of the user when the user intends to obtain a the commodity or a the service from the commodity/service providing apparatus;

a second transceiver among the plurality of transceivers, configured to be enabled to communicate with the first transceiver by propagation of the electric field induced in the conductive pusher when the body of the user touches the conductive pusher;

a switch configured to transfer press information of the conductive pusher when the conductive pusher is pressed down, to a second computer that is connected to the second transceiver and conducts an electronic settlement by communicating monetary information with the first computer; and

an insulator configured to prevent the electric field induced in the conductive pusher from leaking to the switch.

2. (Currently amended) The button apparatus of claim 1, wherein a plurality of pairs of the conductive pusher and switch are provided.

3. (Currently amended) The button apparatus of claim 2, wherein the second transceiver is provided for each pair of the plurality of pairs of the conductive pusher and switch.

4. (Original) The button apparatus of claim 3, wherein each of the second transceivers adds information for identifying itself to information transferred in a communication with the second computer.

5. (Currently amended) The button apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a protective thin film configured to cover the conductive pusher and prevent deterioration of the conductivity of the conductive pusher.

6. (New) A method of transmitting and receiving information in a communication network environment employing a button apparatus, a first transceiver, a first computer that is connected to the first transceiver and keeps monetary information, and a second computer, the first transceiver and first computer being worn by a user, the button apparatus comprising a conductive pusher; a second transceiver connected to the conductive pusher and the second computer; a switch configured to transfer to the second computer press information of the conductive pusher when the conductive pusher is pressed down; and an insulator configured to prevent an electric field induced in the conductive pusher from leaking to the switch, the method comprising:

inducing an electric field in a body of the user serving as an electric-field propagating medium by the first transceiver;

receiving by the second transceiver the monetary information from the first computer to conduct an electronic settlement by detecting propagation of the electric field induced in the conductive pusher when the body of the user touches the conductive pusher in order to obtain a commodity or a service from a commodity/service providing apparatus;

turning on the switch when the conductive pusher is pressed down by the body of the user; and

transferring the press information of the conductive pusher from the switch to the second computer.